

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH - MR. SERGEANT:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - AMBASSADOR TODMAN
-----079799 261201Z /47

R 261137Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR CAUAS' CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN, JULY 15

1. AMBASSADOR CAUAS CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
JULY 15. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CONVERSATION:

A. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN STATED THAT HE WOULD BE
VISITING SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA IN AUGUST AND THAT HE
TENTATIVELY PLANNED TO VISIT SANTIAGO AUGUST 18-20. AM-
BASSADOR CAUAS SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT
AND REMARKED THAT HE SHOULD SEE PRESIDENT PINOCHET. AM-
BASSADOR CAUAS ALSO SAID THAT THERE ARE OTHER CHILEAN
LEADERS THAT SHOULD BE SEEN AND PROMISED TO DEVELOP A
SUGGESTED LIST.

B. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE
PLEASED IN PRINCIPLE WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S SPEECH WHICH
OUTLINED A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY BUT ARE DISTURBED A-
BOUT THE FORM AND TIMING OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM. HE
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REMARKED THAT THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT WAS SHORT AND

POSITIVE BECAUSE WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE SPEECH AND DID NOT
WANT TO MAKE NEGATIVE COMMENTS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO A DISPUTE
WITH THE GOC. HE OBSERVED WE WERE DISTURBED BY THE LENGTH

OF TIME THE PROCESS IS TO TAKE AND THE PARTIAL WAY IN

WHICH DEMOCRACY IS TO BE RESTORED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LEGISLATURE THAT WILL EVENTUALLY ELECT THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE 1/3 OF ITS MEMBERSHIP APPOINTED RATHER THAN ELECTED. AMBASSADOR CAUAS ADMITTED THAT THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE SPEECH INVOLVED A MINIMUM OF 6 YEARS AND A MAXIMUM OF 8 YEARS BEFORE A RETURN TO A FULLY PARTICIPATORY GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR CAUAS REMARKED THAT A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS STILL HAVE TO BE CLARIFIED AND SAID THAT THE VISIT WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUCH QUESTIONS. AMBASSADOR CAUAS COMMENTED THAT THE MAJOR THING THE SPEECH DID WAS TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS WOULD INEVITABLY AFFECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCESS.

C. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT HE WASN'T TRYING TO TELL THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WHAT TO DO, INSTEAD, HE WAS TRYING TO SHARE PRIVATELY USG THINKING ON A FRANK BASIS. AMBASSADOR CAUAS SAID THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT THOSE THOUGHTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR CAUAS SAID THAT HE BELIEVED A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN FRIENDS IS MOST IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS.

D. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN REMARKED THAT AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND AN UNCENSORED PRESS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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ESSENTIAL FOR A FREE SOCIETY AND SAID WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE JUDICIARY WILL BE STRENGTHENED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. AMBASSADOR CAUAS SAID THAT, FROM A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW, HE WAS IN AGREEMENT THAT AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND AN UNCENSORED PRESS ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. AMBASSADOR CAUAS COMMENTED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD PLAY A ROLE IN A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY BUT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT RETURN TO THEIR PRE-1973 POSITION OF BEING THE SOLE RESERVOIR OF POLITICAL POWER AND PARTICIPATION.

E. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONTROL OF DINA AND EASING THE STATE OF SIEGE WERE STEPS TO MOVE ON PROMPTLY. AMBASSADOR CAUAS REMARKED THAT HE WAS IN AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY EXPECTED PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO MAKE A SPEECH IN SEPTEMBER WHICH WOULD CONTAIN GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF DINA AND THE REDUCTION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE. VANCE

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